



DIME Dynamic Documentation Training Stata Exercise

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Introduction

This exercise introduces you to how to export files from Stata that can be read in L^AT_EX. See exercise 1 and 2 for instructions on how to import file into L^AT_EX. After this exercise and exercise 1, you will have a document that is automatically updated each time you run your Stata and your L^AT_EX code.

We have provided you with a do-file that has code that creates file that you can import in a L^AT_EX document. We will go through these examples and then we will ask you to create some tables and graphs of your own using your own data. Note that this is not an exercise on Stata, only on exporting in L^AT_EX format from Stata, so this exercise assumes knowledge of some intermediate level Stata commands.

Start by opening the do-file **Export tables and images.do**, then move on with the exercise.

Setting up a Folder Structure

Few things should be considering while creating directories for L^AT_EX files and Stata do-files:

- You should have one folder (For example - Output) which includes the main L^AT_EX file and a subfolder which contains all the files exported from Stata.
- Exporting all the graphs and figures to the subfolder **Raw** makes it easier to reference different graphs and figures while writing the L^AT_EX file.
- Files exported from Stata should have descriptive name. For example - Rather than **graph1.png**, **graph2.tex**, names like **treatmentEffectGraph.png** would make it easier to understand what files we are using.

An example of this can be found at on Github here¹. You can replace the **Exercise 1.tex** with your L^AT_EX file and have all the outputted files in the **Raw** folder.

Setting your path for Stata

Exported tables and files should be in a folder that is accessible to L^AT_EX. This means that extra care should be put in the first time you are typing out the path of the directory where the files are put.

Path refers to location of the directory where the files are saved.

Before beginning the Stata exercises, we need to set our own paths to the global **main_folder** and global **output** at the start of the do-file. This ensures that the graphs and figures are all saved in a directory L^AT_EX can access.

Finding Path on a Windows Computer

Path to a file can be found by selecting a file and pressing **SHIFT on your keyboard and RIGHT CLICKING your mouse and then clicking COPY AS PATH in the resulting drop down menu** as shown in Figure 1.

¹<https://github.com/mrimal/Dynamic-Documentation/tree/master/Exercises/Exercise%201/LaTeX%20files>

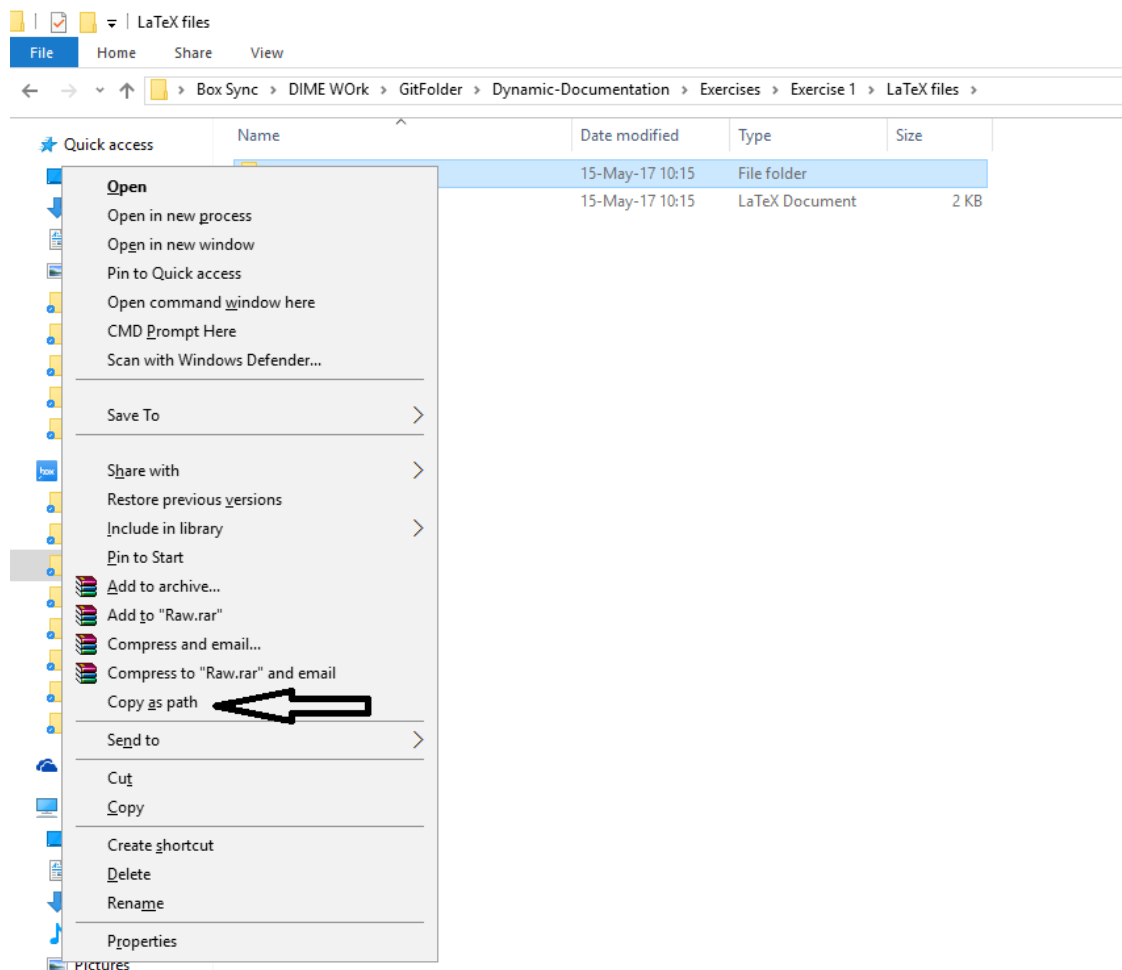


Figure 1: Finding path on a Windows Computer - Solution 1

We can then just **Paste** the path when setting the path in our Stata do-file and change the path where it says

```
global main_folder '“<<<ENTER YOUR FOLDER PATH HERE>>>”'
```

Another solution to finding the path on a Windows computer is shown in Annex 1.

Finding Path on a Mac

File formats

The main things to consider while writing you do-file for dynamic documentation are as follows:

The format that Stata exports should be readable by the \LaTeX . This means that when we export tables it will be exported in `.tex` format and when we export graphs it should be in `.png` format. The files will not be exported in MS Word or MS Excel format.

Part 1, Task 1: Tabulate Categorical Variables

While exporting summary statistics table using `esttab`, using `"$output/categorical.tex"`, `replace` should always include a explanatory file name and also the L^AT_EX extension `.tex`.

Part 1, Task 2: Regression table

Similar to Part 1, Task 1, while using `esttab` to export regression tables, the using `"$output/regression_table.tex"` part should include a explanatory file name(in this case `regression_table.tex`) and should also have the L^AT_EX file extension `.tex`.

Part 2, Task 1: Manually Create a Graph and then Export it

This task shows us how to export graphs created in Stata to export in a format that L^AT_EX can read. Using the `graph export "$output/regular_graph.png", width(5000)` `replace` exports the graph in png format which L^AT_EX can read.

Part 2, Task 2: Using `iegraph` to create a figure

This exercise teaches how to use `iegraph` to create a figure and export it to the graphs folder.

Using the `save('$output/iegraph.png')` ensures that the graphs are directly saved to the specified output folder.

Part 3: Using a do-file to edit a `.tex` file after exporting it

During this part of the exercise, you will learn how to use commands in Stata to format your tables. While tables exported from Stata to L^AT_EX are generally very nice, sometimes they need to be tweaked a little to make them look nicer. So, in this exercise, you'll use the `filefilter` command in Stata to make small changes to the files exported by Stata.

Annex 1

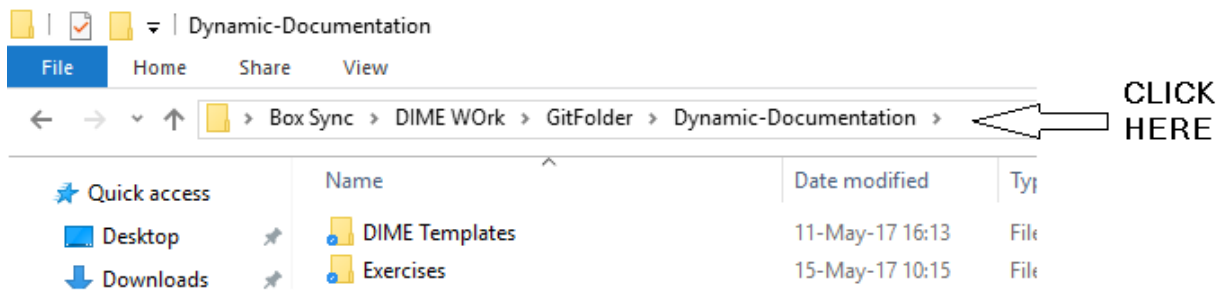


Figure 2: Finding Path on a Windows Computer

As shown in Figure 2, left clicking(normal click) on the bar at the top of the **File Explorer** windows where our files are saved shows us the complete path to the files in a Windows computer.

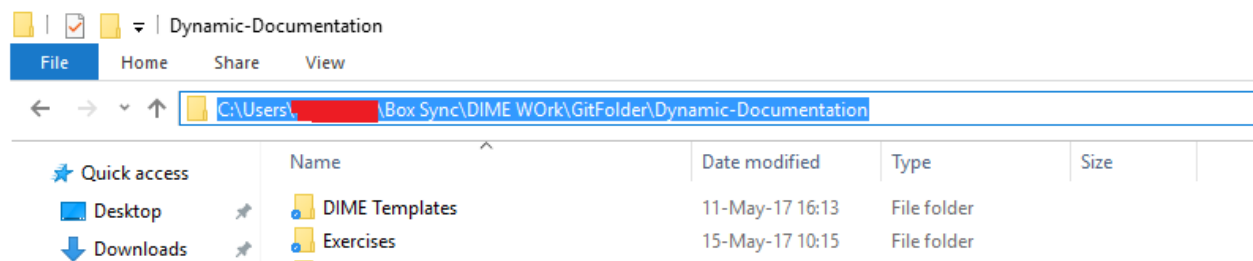


Figure 3: Path shown on a Windows Computer

We can see in Figure 3, that the complete path to the folder is show. We can then paste this path when setting the path in our Stata do-file and changing the path where it says

```
global main_folder '<<<ENTER YOUR FOLDER PATH HERE>>>'
```